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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002793

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/UBI, S/CT, D/HS, INL
DOJ FOR OIA - JUDI FRIEDMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/14/2015

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#) [KPRP](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH ARREST SEVEN IN COUNTER-TERRORISM RAI...

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Embassy The Hague

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SUBJECT: DUTCH ARREST SEVEN IN COUNTER-TERRORISM RAIDS

Classified By: Andrew J. Schofer, Acting DCM, for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)
)

1. (C) SUMMARY: In the largest single counter-terrorism action in the Netherlands since the 9/11 attacks, a newly formed rapid intervention team arrested six men and one woman in The Hague, Amsterdam and Almere on October 14. Among those arrested were Jermaine Walters, the brother of (American) Hofstad suspect Jason Walters, and Samir Azzouz, a Dutch teenager of Moroccan origin acquitted in April of plotting attacks on Amsterdam airport, a nuclear reactor and Dutch governmental buildings. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) The public prosecutors office confirmed that the sweeps netted seven suspects, including four in The Hague, two in Amsterdam, and one in Almere. News of the arrests is dominating local media. A press spokesperson at the prosecutors' office confirmed to us the arrest of Jermaine Walters, but stressed the prosecutors' office would not confirm that information publicly. The spokesperson told Emboff that the seven will appear in a Rotterdam court on October 17 on charges of terrorist activities, including planning terrorist attacks on politicians and the offices of the Dutch intelligence service (AIVD) in Leidschendam. No weapons have yet been discovered, according to the spokesman, but investigations and house searches continue.

3. (C) The Office of the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (NCTb) ordered security tightened today around a number of politicians, Parliament, AIVD offices, and both the Justice and Interior Ministries. AIVD information indicating that Azzouz was seeking automatic weapons and explosives to carry out attacks on politicians and Dutch government buildings, reported by the press and public prosecutors' office, prompted the move. NCTb officials would not comment on which politicians received additional protection. Although Dutch intelligence reports indicated that only the AIVD building was targeted specifically, the NCTb bolstered security at the other sites as a precaution, according to the spokesperson at the prosecutors office. A senior NCTb official, Ewald Riks, told us the security would likely stay in place a few days until the threat had been removed.

4. (C) There was some disagreement over the impact of the arrests on the Hofstad group. National Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Tjibbe Joustra told Charge that today's arrests, combined with the previous arrests of some 10 suspected Hofstad members currently on trial for their membership in this alleged terrorist organization, meant that a substantial part of the group was now in custody. He added, however, that of course you never know if you have them all; it is a very loose network. Interior Minister Remkes separately told reporters that the threat has not disappeared but the immediate threat has been removed, adding that despite earlier arrests, the Hofstad group is growing in size.

5. (C) According to NCTb's Riks, no shots were fired and no injuries were sustained in the raids, conducted by the rapid

intervention team. This was the first major use of the combined military and police team, designed specifically for counter-terrorism actions. The team was recently empowered with arrest authority.

16. (C) The GONL has no plans to raise either the national threat level in the Netherlands, currently considered substantial, or the state of alert for any of the seven critical infrastructure sectors included in the Netherlands' new counter-terrorism alert system.

17. (C) The GONL told us there are no known direct threats towards U.S. interests at this time. The Embassy and Consulate are already in a heightened state of alert and will maintain their current security posture. All Mission personnel have been reminded to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the local authorities and the RSO. Post is prepared to initiate appropriate steps should the local threat environment change.

BLAKEMAN